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PHONE MAIN 176



Title Page

✓ *Auction of Souls.*

✓ *A photoplay in eight reels*

✓ *Directed by Oscar Apfel.*

Scenario by Frederic Chapin.

Author of photoplay Associated First National Pictures

Indy

There'll be a Franchise everywhere

FEB -7 1922

REQUEST FOR RETURN OF COPYRIGHT DEPOSITS

Dated at Washington D C.

Feb 7-1922, 1922

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Washington, D. C.

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entitled The Seventh Day Seels

PENROD Seels & Auction of Souls. 8 reels.

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AURORA MARDIGANIAN IN "AUCTION OF SOULS".

Aurora Mardiganian, a young and beautiful Armenian girl, lives with her parents in the Turkish city of Harpout. The Mardiganians, like the other hundreds of thousands of Armenians living here, within the shadow of Mt. Ararat, are industrious, quiet, intelligent people, forming the oldest Christian nation.

For centuries the Armenians lived a life of terror and constant fear, because of the murderous attacks of the fanatical Turks. For some time before the opening of the story however, the Turks had been quiet. Aurora's family had been growing prosperous, and her father was preparing to send her West to be educated.

But into this serene picture creeps East the hand of war which had begun to devastate Europe. Matters reached the pass where the Turks openly tell the American Ambassador in Constantinople, Henry Morgenthau, that the Armenians were giving secret support to Russia, the enemy of Germany and Turkey.

Consequently his plea fails to prevent the issuance of an order that hundreds of thousands of Armenians must be moved southward from their fruitful homeland into the desert. The Turks know this virtually means the extermination of the Armenians.

Passelt Pasha, Turkish Governor of the Province, comes to the home of Aurora's father and demands the hand of Aurora in marriage. The father reminds him that his daughter does not wish to give up Christianity, as she would have to do so to marry him, and the Turk leaves in anger.

Then goes forth the order that all Armenians shall prepare to march. The men are separated from the women. Soldiers in the Armenian uniform are forced to disarm and dig a trench, whereupon Turkish soldiers shot them down. Mothers are torn from their children, and fathers from their families. All are marched away into the desert, where famine, thirst, fierce heat by day, and worse terrors by night for the young girls, stalk.

In her efforts to escape, Aurora goes to a mission school which is taught by Miss Graham, a pretty English girl. When soldiers surround it Miss Graham protests in the name of the English flag. Her only answer is the dragging away of her Armenian girls by the Turkish soldiers, who trample her flag. Determined to remain with the girls and do as much as possible for them, Miss Graham disguises herself as an Armenian, and goes with them into the desert.

They are followed by Andranik, a young shepherd who has been attracted by the beauty of Aurora. From this time on he is her protector, several times managing to save her ~~parents~~ when she is in grave straits. Aurora's parents are killed by the Turks. Like hundreds of thousands of others, she, Miss Graham and her sister are forced on into the burning desert, their feet blistered from the hot sands, and their lips knowing neither food nor water.

Other refugees tell them fearful stories of towns where the Armenians fared even worse than they. In one place hundreds of men were lured into a barn "to register" as the Turks said, only to be burned to death. By night the girls have opportunity of seeing the Turk in all his infamy. Only those who are buried in the sands by the older women escape misuse by their brutal captors.

At last, aided by the watching young shepherd, Miss Graham and Aurora escape. For a time they travel on by night, trying to escape not only the Turks, but the even more savage Kurds, who ride the desert knowing no law. It is inevitable that the girls are captured by these fierce horsemen who recognize in them -- after they have themselves taken advantage -- rich prizes for the harem of a notorious Mohammedan chieftan.

So the girls are sold and become inmates of a harem. Here they suffer indignities sufficient to break the heart of Western women. But again they manage to escape, and become fugitives of the desert world. After a time they are recaptured and sent to the slave market, where thinly draped they are offered for sale. In disguise Andranik buys Aurora and Miss Graham, each for eighty-five cents. They start North once more. That night they get three steeds from a Turkish camp.

With the Turks at their heels they take refuge in an ancient monastery on a mountain. Following them the Turkish forces arrive before the monastery. Refused entrance by the holy men they break their way into the monastery, and take the girls captive. Then, once more, their original clothing in pathetic rags, their hearts filled with terror at the prospect of new trials, and the hope of ever getting back to their people again banished -- the girls

are ridden madly away on horseback as prisoners.

And as they cross the desert the Turks point out to them as a solemn warning against future attempts to escape a supreme horror -- The Cult of the Germans -- nothing less than a long line of girls naked on crosses, nails through their hands and feet and vultured perched above croaking against the time when they shall feast.

Such almost becomes the fate of Aurora Mardiganian. But she and Miss Graham, once more with the aid of Andranik, escape and make their way at last to an American mission.

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